

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

VERNON HOOKS,

Plaintiff,

v.

J. BRADFORD,

Defendant.

Case No. 1:23-cv-00076-JLT-HBK

ORDER SETTING SETTLEMENT
CONFERENCE

Settlement Statements due: 2/16/2024
Settlement Conference: 2/26/2024 at 10:00 AM

On October 11, 2023, the Court afforded the parties until January 5, 2024, to opt out of participating in an early settlement conference. (Doc. No. 18). As of this date neither party has opted out and the time to do so has expired. Consequently, Magistrate Judge Christopher D. Baker will hold a settlement conference on **February 26, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.** The Court will conduct the settlement conference via video conference. The Zoom settlement conference invitation will be distributed the week prior.¹ The Court has reserved the entire day for this settlement conference

¹ Any difficulties concerning Zoom video conference, or connecting to the Zoom video conference, shall immediately be reported to Susan Hall, Courtroom Deputy for Magistrate Judge Baker, at SHall@caed.uscourts.gov.

1 and expects the parties will proceed with the settlement conference in good faith and attempt to
2 resolve all or part of the case. If any party believes that the settlement conference will not be
3 productive, that party shall so inform the Court as far in advance of the settlement conference as
4 possible.

5 Unless otherwise permitted in advance by the Court, the following individuals must attend
6 the settlement conference: (1) all of the attorney(s) who will try the case; and (2) individuals with
7 full authority to negotiate and settle the case, on any terms. *See* Local Rule 270(f).

8 **No later than February 16, 2024**, each party must submit to Magistrate Judge Baker's
9 chambers at CDBorders@caed.uscourts.gov, a confidential settlement conference statement.
10 Plaintiff shall mail his confidential settlement statement, to 510 19th Street, Suite 200 Bakersfield,
11 CA 93301. These statements should neither be filed on the docket nor served on any other party.

12 In compliance with Local Rule 270(d)-(e), the settlement statements will be used
13 exclusively for the undersigned to prepare for and conduct the settlement conference. They will
14 not become part of the case file and will be shredded thereafter under Local Rule 270(e). If applicable,
15 the statements should be marked "CONFIDENTIAL." *See* Local Rule 270(d).

16 The statements should not exceed ten (10) pages and should include:

17 (1) a brief recitation of the facts;

18 (2) a discussion of the strengths and weaknesses of the case, including the parties' relevant
19 position on the factual and legal issues and brief review of the evidence to support the parties'
20 factual position;

21 (3) an itemized estimate of the expected costs for further discovery, pretrial, and trial
22 matters, in specific dollar terms;

23 (4) your best estimate of the probability that plaintiff will prevail should this case proceed
24 to trial;

25 (5) your best estimate of the damages or relief plaintiff may recover should this case proceed
26 to trial and plaintiff prevail (in specific dollar terms and/or injunctive relief, if applicable);

27 (6) a history of settlement discussions (including a listing of any current settlement offers
28 from any party, in specific dollar terms), a candid statement of your party's current position on

1 settlement, including **the amount that you will give/accept to settle** (in specific dollar terms), and
2 a statement of your expectations for settlement discussions;

3 (7) a list of the individuals who will be attending the settlement on the party's behalf,
4 including names and, if appropriate, titles.

5 At the outset of the settlement conference, the undersigned may call upon the parties'
6 counsel to give a brief (five-minute) opening presentation outlining the factual and legal highlights
7 of their case before the parties break into separate caucuses. The undersigned reserves the right to
8 dispense with the opening presentations of counsel if the undersigned determines that such
9 presentations are not likely to be productive.

10 Notwithstanding the provisions of Federal Rule of Evidence 408, all statements made by
11 the parties relating to the substance or merits of the case, whether written or oral, made for the first
12 time during the settlement conference will be deemed to be confidential and shall not be admissible
13 in evidence for any reason in the trial of the case, should the case not settle. This provision does
14 not preclude admissibility in other contexts, such as pertaining to a motion for sanctions regarding
15 the settlement conference.

16 IT IS SO ORDERED.

17 Dated: January 9, 2024


HELENA M. BARCH-KUCHTA
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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23 Cc: Susan Hall, CRD.
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